

Impact Assessment – Section 9 Academies Act Duty

City of Peterborough Academy Free School (mainstream) proposal

1. Section 9 of the Academies Act 2010 places a duty upon the Secretary of State to take into account the likely impact of establishing the additional school on maintained schools, Academies, institutions within the further education sector and alternative provision in the area in which the additional school is (or is proposed to be) situated.
2. The City of Peterborough Academy is a 1,100-place non-faith 11-19 school located in Peterborough and due to open in September 2013. The school plans to open with 80 year seven pupils and will reach full capacity by 2020. The school will be co-located with a 90 place 4-18 special school catering for pupils with the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) which is due to open a year earlier in September 2012.
3. We have assessed the impact on the six secondary schools within a 10-mile radius of the school site. We have also considered the impact on both primary schools and FE colleges.
4. Of the existing schools in the locality, it is our assessment that the biggest impact will be felt by the Voyager Academy because it is the closest school to the proposed Free School and in early stages of improvement following its conversion to Academy status. It is our assessment that the impact would be moderate to high, but this will be tempered by the increased need for places in the area and the very different specialism of the Academy when compared to the proposed Free School.
5. The Free School will offer a standard academic curriculum but within that intends to focus on language development to support the needs of the pupils the Free School is likely to attract.
6. Although the Free School will have a moderate impact on other schools, the forecast need for places should ensure that all of the existing schools remain viable. It is also our view that the distinctive academic focus and language development offer will create choice for parents by offering an alternative model and, in forcing other schools to innovate, could drive up educational standards across the area.

Background

7. The Trust behind the Free School, GDFT is an existing multi-Academy sponsor. The LA asked groups to come forward to deliver new schools to fulfil basic need, GDFT were appointed as the preferred bidders to apply to open this Free School and the co-located special school which is opening a year earlier in September 2012.

Characteristics of the area

8. Peterborough is a city with population of around 178,000 people, which is expected to grow to above 200,000 by 2021. It is ethnically diverse with around 1 in 14 people having an Asian ethnic group and in recent years an increasing number of immigrants from Eastern Europe. The largest Asian ethnic group is the Pakistani population, with around 7,100 people with a Pakistani ethnic group living in Peterborough. The Office for National Statistics categorise Peterborough as a 'new and growing town'.
9. The City of Peterborough Academy is to be located in the Peterborough Central ward right in the middle of the City. There are a number of deprived areas across the city and national indices of deprivation rank Peterborough as the 90th most deprived (out of 354) local authority areas, with 26% of the population of Peterborough living in the 10% most deprived Super Output Areas in England, the area where the Free School will be located. The area also has a higher population density than found on average in the East of England and in England, at 4.8 people per hectare.
10. Educational standards in Peterborough with 49.4% of pupils achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs including English and Maths are below the national average. This has been the case for some time, whilst there are year on year improvements, progress remains slow. Two sponsored secondary Academies opened in Peterborough within the last year, taking over failing schools in the City.
11. The secondary school population in the Peterborough Central district (in which the Free School will be located) is projected to grow by 8.6% over the next five years. Therefore, any potential negative impact on local schools could be mitigated by the growing population.

Catchment Area and Admissions

12. The City of Peterborough Academy (CPA) admissions policy is fully compliant with the admissions code. If the school is over-subscribed, priority (after first accepting children with statements of SEN on which CPA has been named) will be given in the following order:
 - Looked after children;
 - Children who have an older sibling attending CPA at the time of transfer;
 - Proximity to the School using straight line measurement from the main entrance of CPA to the main entrance to the child's home;
 - Once the above criteria have been applied to other applicants and offers have been made subsequent to the offer date for secondary admissions, the Academy may offer places to the children of newly appointed teachers where there is a demonstrable skills shortage for

the vacant post in question. (There is no need for derogation as this condition will apply in the new Admissions Code from 2013, in time for when this school is due to open).

13. To be eligible to enter the sixth form both internal and external applicants will be expected to meet minimum academic entry criteria. If the sixth form is over-subscribed, priority (after first accepting children with statements of SEN on which CPA has been named) will be given in the following order:

- Looked after children;
- Proximity to the school using straight line measurement from the main entrance of CPA to the main entrance to the child's home;
- Once the above criteria have been applied to other applicants and offers have been made subsequent to the offer date for secondary admissions, the Academy may offer places to the children of newly appointed teachers where there is a demonstrable skills shortage for the vacant post in question. (There is no need for derogation as this condition will apply in the new Admissions Code from 2013, in time for when this school is due to open).

14. The school does not have a self defined catchment area. Routinely we would create a proxy catchment area which is created based on the distance travelled to secondary school by the majority of children in the LA (80%), which is two miles.

Impact on other schools

15. Below is a discussion of the likely impact of the proposed school on the schools flagged as being most at risk from losing pupils, as well as, those which are poorly performing and operating with significant surplus capacity. The table below shows that of the six schools that were assessed, it is our view that opening the Free School will have a moderate to minimal impact on all these schools. A map showing the location of the Free School in relation to surrounding schools can be found at the end.

Table 2: Summary of the potential impact on secondary schools located within 3 miles of the City of Peterborough Academy.

School name	Distance (miles) from Free school	Number of pupils	School capacity	Surplus	Ofsted Rating	Age range
St John Fisher Catholic High School	0.24	733	779	7%	Satisfactory	11-18
Thomas Deacon Academy	0.68	2,128	2,200	4%	Good	11-19
The King's (the Cathedral)	0.78	978	1,171	7%	Outstanding	11-19

School						
The Voyager Academy	2.36	1,540	1,650	9%	Satisfactory	11-18
Jack Hunt School	2.37	1,653	1,803	9%	Good	11-18
Stanground College	2.50	1,471	1,651	11%	Satisfactory	11-19

St John Fisher Catholic High School – Impact - Moderate

16. The John Fisher Catholic High School is a Voluntary Aided Roman Catholic School. The school has capacity for 779 pupils and there was a small surplus of places of around 7% of total capacity in 2010/11, however the school was oversubscribed for entry 2011/12 with 267 applicants for 133 places.

17. At 0.24 miles away John Fisher Catholic High School is the closest school to the proposed Free School. In principle this could mean it could lose some of its potential pupils as a result of the Free School. However, the school is currently oversubscribed for entry so, even if it does lose some potential pupils to the Free School, it should still be able to fill most, or all, of its places during the start up stages of the Free School. The school was inspected in 2010 and found to be satisfactory. Attainment is poor, the school has Key Stage 4 attainment well below the national average – 39% of pupils achieved 5+ A*-C grades including English and Maths GCSE in 2010/11 compared with 58% nationally, so parents may be attracted to an alternative.

18. Overall, it is our assessment that the impact of establishing the City of Peterborough Academy on the John Fisher Catholic High School would be moderate. Due to increased demand for places the opening of the Free School should not affect the long-term viability of the school, but may encourage the school to raise standards. Additionally it is a Catholic school. Parents who want to send their child to a Catholic school may not be attracted to the Free School, which does not share the same faith ethos.

Thomas Deacon Academy – Impact - Moderate

19. The Thomas Deacon Academy is a sponsored Academy with a Maths and Science specialism led by the Deacons Schools Trust which opened in September 2007. The school has capacity for 2,200 pupils (around 330 pupils per year group) and there was a small surplus of places of around 4% of total capacity in 2010/11. The school was oversubscribed for entry 2011/12 with 957 applicants for 330 places.

20. The school was rated as good by Ofsted in its last inspection in 2010.

Although the school has Key Stage 4 attainment below the national average – 43% of pupils achieved 5+ A*-C grades including English and Maths GCSE in 2010/11 compared with 58% nationally, the schools results have improved year on year.

21. The school is the second closest school to the Free School, so in principle will lose more potential pupils to the Free School than those further away and because the school has attainment below the national average, parents may be attracted to an alternative.
22. Overall it is our assessment that the impact of establishing the City of Peterborough Academy on the Thomas Deacon Academy would be moderate. The school was rated as good, is currently at near full capacity and was oversubscribed for entry in 2011/12. If it loses some potential pupils, because of the increasing need for places, it should still be able to fill most, or all, of its places in future years. The opening of the Free School should therefore not affect the long term viability of the school.

The Voyager Academy – Impact – Moderate to High

23. The Voyager Academy is a sponsor led Academy with a Media and Arts specialism led by the Comberton Village College (an outstanding secondary school). The Academy opened in September 2011 replacing the Voyager School. The school has capacity for 1,650 pupils and there was a surplus of places of around 9% of total capacity in 2010/11. The school failed to fill all its year 7 places in 2011/12, allocating 265 of the 270 places available.
24. The school was rated as satisfactory by Ofsted in its last inspection in 2008. The introduction of the new Free School could make it harder for the school to make further improvements if they lose pupils to it (especially if they are at the higher end of the ability range).
25. The school has Key Stage 4 attainment well below the national average – 32% of pupils achieved 5+ A*-C grades including English and maths GCSE in 2010/11 compared with 58% nationally, however these results relate to the predecessor school, the Voyager School.
26. The school is located over two miles from the proposed site. The school has an existing surplus of school places equivalent to 9% of total capacity and was slightly undersubscribed for entry in 2011 although it filled 98% of places. If the school lost more pupils to the Free School, the problems of surplus places may increase, potentially having a negative impact on the long-term financial viability of the school.
27. We believe over time the impact on this school will be lessened by the increased need for places, the likely improvements it will make now it is an Academy and the very distinctive Media and Arts specialism the school offers parents and pupils.

Stanground Academy – Impact - Minimal

28. The Stanground Academy is a sponsored Academy led by the same sponsors of this Free School. The Academy opened in April 2012 replacing the Stanground College. The school has capacity for 1,651 pupils (around 270 pupils per year group) and there was a surplus of places of around 11% of total capacity in 2010/11. The school was undersubscribed for entry 2011/12, allocating 229 of the 270 places available.
29. The school was rated as satisfactory by Ofsted in its last inspection in 2008 and has Key Stage 4 attainment well below the national average – 39% of pupils achieved 5+ A*-C grades including English and maths GCSE in 2010/11 compared with 58% nationally.
30. It is our assessment that the impact on this school of the proposed Free School will be minimal. The school is located in a distinctly separate ward in Peterborough and is likely to continue to recruit from that community.
31. Our overall assessment is that because attainment is well below the national average, the opening of the Free School could make it harder for Stanground Academy to keep on improving if potential pupils (especially if they are at the higher end of the ability range) choose instead to go to the new Free School. However, this impact will be tempered by the increase in demand for places and the Academies location in a very separate ward to the Free School.

The King's School - Impact - Minimal

32. The King's (the Cathedral) School is an 11-19 Voluntary Aided [Church of England](#) secondary school situated 0.78 miles away from the Free School site. On the 1st January 2011, the school converted to become an Academy.
33. The school has a capacity of 1171 and currently has a surplus of 7%. Performance data for the last 3 years shows 5+ A*-C including English and Maths: 52%/70%/65%. It was last inspected by Ofsted in June 2011 and was judged to be 'Outstanding'.
34. The Kings School is the only outstanding school within the area and has by far the highest attainment levels of all the schools assessed. Assuming this level of performance is sustained it is likely that this school will continue to be a popular choice for parents. Given the Free School has a focus on language development there is no reason the two schools could not operate side one another.

Jack Hunt School - Impact - Minimal

35. The Jack Hunt School is an 11-18 secondary school situated over two miles away from the Free School site. The school has capacity for 1,803 pupils and there was a surplus of places of around 9% of total capacity in

2010/11.

36. Performance data shows 48% of pupils achieved 5+ A*-C grades including English and Maths GCSE in 2010/11 compared with 58% nationally. The school was last inspected by Ofsted in March 2010 and was judged to be 'Good'.
37. The Free School is likely to have a minimal impact on the Jack Hunt School as it is firmly situated in another distinctive ward in the City. The school was rated as good, is currently at near full capacity and was oversubscribed for entry in 2010/11, even if it does lose some potential pupils, because of the increasing need for places, it should still be able to fill most, or all, of its places in future years. The opening of the Free School should therefore not affect the long term viability of the school.

Impact on post-16

38. All six schools within the 10-mile radius of the Free School site have sixth forms. Of those three are in the Peterborough Central ward. There are two Further Education Colleges in Peterborough Central – Peterborough Regional College and City College Peterborough, catering for students across both Peterborough and Cambridge.
39. There was an increase in learner numbers in FE and sixth form colleges and school sixth forms between 2007/08 and 2009/10 and again in 2011/12, this trend is expected to continue. Full year data for Peterborough residents in 2009/10 shows that:
- 2,444 young people were in FE and sixth form colleges
 - 2,081 attended school sixth forms and Academies
 - 286 started an Apprenticeship
 - 531 were in entry to employment provision (E2E)
 - 18 were undertaking a combination of FE and E2E provision.
40. There are two factors which we have considered in our assessment of the impact of the Free School on other post-16 provision. The first is the increase in demand for these places and the relative small size of the Free School 6th form. It is intended that the 6th form will cater for 200 pupils, 60 places will be available from 2018 and all 200 from 2020. The second factor considered looked at was the type of post-16 offer that is currently in place across the City. There is a good mix of vocational and academic further education pathways, however the quality of these are variable.
41. It is therefore our assessment that the establishment of the Free School would only have a minimal impact on post-16 provision in the Peterborough Central district.

Local authority view

42. Peterborough City Council is fully supportive of this Free School. The local authority themselves identified the need for the secondary school and associated special school and conducted the procurement of the Academy Sponsor that will run this Free School. The local authority remains closely involved and are managing the build programme.
43. Peterborough City Council were asked to provide their views on the Free School proposal and responded to that invitation on 22 May 2012. In their response, the Council again stated their support for the Free Schools policy and acknowledged the potential for the City of Peterborough Academy to meet the increased need for places in the Peterborough Central ward and to offer greater parental choice in the area which has a range of selective and faith schools.

Representations

44. Academy Trusts are obliged, under section 10 of the Academies Act 2010, to consult with those persons they think are appropriate as to whether the Academy Trust should enter into the Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State. The Department has not issued written guidance to Academy Trusts about the section 10 duty; however, we have drawn proposers' attention to this duty and encouraged them to adopt an approach that suits their individual needs.
45. No direct representations have been received by the Department but a public consultation has been carried out by the proposer group.
46. The findings of the consultation showed there was strong support for the project amongst the stakeholders questioned. At no stage during the open evenings and liaison with interested parties did the proposers encounter direct criticism or opposition to the City of Peterborough Academy Free School proposal.

Conclusion

47. We have concluded that City of Peterborough Academy is most likely to have an adverse impact on those schools with below average performance and operating with surplus capacity within close proximity of the Free School.
48. This risk is most pronounced with the Voyager Academy because it is currently operating with a small surplus, its Key Stage 4 results were below average and it had only a satisfactory Ofsted rating. However the Voyager Academy is located over two miles from the proposed site, in another ward and offers a very distinctive Media and Arts specialism.
49. We also believe that the Voyager Academy will make improvements following its recent conversion to Academy status and that the impact of the Free School will not be significant enough to threaten the future

viability of the school. The increasing need for secondary school places is also most pronounced in the Peterborough Central ward where the Free School will be located.

50. Any short term negative impact of establishing the Free School will not threaten the viability of any of these schools. Any short term impact should be outweighed by the positives of creating genuine choice for parents and driving up educational standards in the local area. It is our assessment that it is therefore appropriate for the SoS to enter into the Funding Agreement with the GDFT.

Map of Schools in the Peterborough area



